RG104 E-1 Box 172

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., August 21, 1891.

The Superintendent, U. S. Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, who has charge of the Treasury exhibits at the World's Fair, is exceedingly anxious that we should let him know within a few days, if possible, the nature of the exhibit of the mint service at the World's Fair in Chicago. All the other branches of the Treasury service have made detailed estimates and reports to him, to be submitted to the managers of the fair, of the exhibits which they propose , and the amount of space that will be required, as well as the weight per square foot upon the underpinning, and an estimate of the cost to the fair of such exhibit.

Instructions were given you some time ago, and I have orally spoken to you and the people of the mint on the subject of preparing at the earliest possible date the plans of a mint exhibit at Chicago, and full details of the same. This must be done at once, and you are hereby instructed to take the matter in hand and push it to completion within a week, if possible.

My idea is that the mint exhibit at Chicago should be as complete and interesting as possible. I would suggest for your con-

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sideration that it embrace in addition to a press for the striking of coins or medals the plant of an embryo mint, and also that the cabinet of the mint or a portion of it be transferred to Chicago during the fair. If this meets with your concurrence you will please prepare your plans accordingly.

Accompanying the plans will be a detailed statement as to the space to be occupied by each branch of the exhibit and the total space required, also the cost of shipping the exhibit to Chicago, erecting the same at the fair and of taking down and reshipping the exhibit.

I think that some allowance should be made for the wages of persons who will be sent in connection with the exhibit, or at least of some one to be in charge of the exhibit. It is possible that we could allow some of the employes of the mint, familiar with the processes, to be employed at Chicago during the fair without any expense to the fair.

I am advised that the Supervising Architect reports that the undepinning and support for the floor of the Government building is capable of sustaining a weight of only 200 pounds to the square foot. If you propose having any exhibit which will exceed that weight it is not only desirable but necessary that you at once inform me of the fact, giving estimates of the weight per square

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foot so that the underpinning may be properly supported.

Please let me hear from you within a week on this subject.

Very respectfully,

C. C. Leech

Director.

No estimate of space or expense for Mint exhibit can be made by the fair people until they have the detailed statement of the exhibit before them.

C. C. L.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 172

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